



Pacific
Triple E 

Every member of California Tomato Farmers adheres to the most stringent food safety standards around, and Pacific Triple E is no exception.

“Food safety is the number one priority for our company,” said Joe Esformes, whose family began Pacific Triple E in the early 1930s. “We joined California Tomato Farmers because the cooperative is as committed to food safety as we are.”

Pacific Triple E and the two families who own it — the Hellers and Esformes — employ more than 750 people at the company’s growing and packing operation in Tracy, California. A culture of commitment to food safety is prevalent among every employee at the large company.

As an example of the importance of a solid food safety program, Pacific Triple E made a commitment to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration during summer 2008 when questions began to emerge about the traceability of fresh tomatoes. That commitment was to demonstrate the ability of California Tomato Farmers members to trace tomatoes throughout the production chain, and to provide every possible detail about each box of tomatoes grown, packed and shipped by their company.

When the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Committee staff visited Pacific Triple E’s operations in July 2008, the company randomly selected a box of tomatoes shipped from their packing house earlier in the season. Within five minutes, Pacific Triple E traced the randomly-selected tomatoes through the entire growing and packing process. From the sealing of the truck as it left the Pacific Triple E shipping dock to the piece of bare ground where the tomatoes were grown, they tracked the tomatoes every step of the way.

Every member of California Tomato Farmers can provide the same detailed information — it is a requirement for membership. The company’s name, reputation and its very livelihood rest on the commitment to produce safe tomatoes for consumers, and members of this family-owned business work tirelessly to ensure the food safety system is maintained.

The same holds true for every member of California Tomato Farmers.